

The National Republican

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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way for other business. Congress is the local legislature for the district, but so little time is set apart for the consideration of district bills that the people have good reason for becoming impatient. In the very nature of things it is difficult for so large a body to legislate for a municipality, but as long as congress insists on taking this work upon itself the people have a right to demand that it shall be attended to. It is to be hoped that the bills changing the existing routes of the steam railroads will not be permitted to drag along to the end of the session without being acted upon.

An Ecclesiastical Cause.

Of late years there has been a great deal of clamor against what is termed "caucus rule" in political matters. Among a certain class of republicans it has come to be considered rather meritorious than otherwise to disregard a caucus resolution and to vote against a caucus nominee. In the hue and cry against the settlement of party questions and party nominations by a preliminary vote the absolute necessity for such action, if party organization is to be maintained, is lost sight of. Unless unanimity is established and enforced by some such process, a convention—particularly if it is composed of a large number of delegates—is sure to fall into chaos, and in the struggle of contending factions it is impossible to ascertain the will of the majority.

The necessity for preliminary consultation and agreement is beginning to force itself on the consideration of ecclesiastical bodies. At the next convention of the Episcopal diocese of Maryland, which meets in Baltimore May 28, a bishop is to be chosen to fill the place made vacant by the death of the late Bishop Pinkney. The office is a most important one, and the filling of it involves the harmony and welfare of the church. In the Maryland diocese there are two parties—high church and low church—and it is not easy to find a man for the episcopate who is acceptable to both. It is feared that the election may lead to a protracted contest, which may further widen the breach and more sharply define the line of demarcation that already runs through the church.

To avoid this a number of clergymen—including ritualists, high churchmen, and low churchmen—have united in a circular proposing a preliminary meeting at St. Peter's church, Baltimore, on the evening of May 27 to settle the matter, if possible, before the balloting begins. A copy of this circular has been sent to each member of the diocesan convention, whether of the clergy or laity. In the difficulty that besets the church these eminent clergymen have betaken themselves to the political expedient of a caucus. They do not call their proposed meeting by that name, but their circular can mean nothing else. They recognize the necessity for deciding some matters in advance of the meeting of the convention, and they have the courage to propose the very plan by which harmony of action is obtained in politics.

As might be expected, the suggestions of the circular are not received with favor by all the members of the convention. No caucus of an Episcopal convention has ever before been held, and this one has the weight of unbroken precedent and immemorial usage against it. One clergyman published a reply to the circular, in which he maintains that nothing can be done by a caucus which could not be done as well by the convention, and that if reasons are to be given why this man or that man ought not to be elected bishop, it would be better that the whole discussion should be in the open session of the convention, where every one speaks under a solemn sense of responsibility to the body of which he is a member.

The eleven eminent clergymen who have proposed the caucus evidently know more of human nature than the gentleman who shows that their action is unprecedented. There are grave reasons of propriety which make it necessary to put some restrictions upon those who are disposed to "speak out in meeting" what had better not be said. The caucus gives an opportunity of talking over things plainly, and there is no reason why ecclesiastical, as well as political, conventions should not resort to this mode of bringing about harmony of action.

The Walking Match.

From the result of the six days' walking match in Madison Square garden, New York, it would seem that the limit of human endurance had not yet been reached. Two of the men who took part in this contest beat all the records that have ever been made by pedestrians. Fitzgerald carried his score up to 610 miles, and stands at the head of the list. He is the champion pedestrian of the whole world. Rowell made 602 miles, and stands next to Fitzgerald. The greatest score ever before recorded was made by George Hazel in the same building in February, 1882, who went off the track at the close of the sixth day with 600 miles to his credit.

Fitzgerald won by dogged endurance. On Saturday his appearance excited the pity of the spectators. He was utterly broken down, and sometimes out of his mind, but he trudged around the track until his score was beyond the reach of Rowell, who had pressed him closely through the whole race. Why should any man put his physical power to such a test? Beyond the commercial motive for making money, what good can result either to the contestants or to society from such an overstraining of the human powers. The effect of such a protracted struggle is to destroy rather than to develop the faculties of mind and body.

There certainly is nothing in the spectacle of half a dozen weak men trudging along on a saw-dust track that ought to draw a multitude of spectators, but such was the popular interest in this painful contest that on the last day the price of admission was raised from 50 cents to \$1 in order to prevent the building from being overcrowded. The masses of men seem to have a natural love for the perilous; they like to contemplate something that pushes human pluck and human endurance to the very verge of dissolution. The greater the danger to the athletes, the greater the satisfaction afforded to the spectator.

The gambling instinct also comes largely

into play at the walking match. Men like to lay wagers on the strength and endurance of pedestrians just as they like to bet on the speed of horses. This probably is the reason that the walking match retains its place among sports. There certainly is nothing entertaining in the spectacle, the associations and surroundings are not elevating, but there is an opportunity for making and losing money, and this seems to be a sufficient reason for keeping up pedestrian contests.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE NATIONAL—HAM KINSLEY'S BENEFIT. The attraction at the National theater this week will be Miss Lizzie Evans, a bright little woman, who will appear in "Foggy's Ferry." She is said to sing well, dance well, and kick becomingly, and in the character of Chip has found a part in which she has made a hit elsewhere. The performance to-night will be for Manager Kinsley's benefit, and his friends intend to give him a grand ovation.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT. This organization, which is composed of the very best of our local vocal talent, both male and female, under the leadership of Mr. Harry Sherman, will give its second concert at Lincoln hall on Thursday evening. The soloists will be Miss Hattie L. Simms, soprano, and Mr. Jules Jordan, tenor. The former has sung here in private, and those who have heard her speak highly of her voice, and the latter has made his reputation with Mr. George Henschel in "The Damnation of Faust," and was one of the principal singers at the Cincinnati festival. Among the selections of the programme are "The Bride," a cantata by McKenzie, and "The Water Fairy," which was so exquisitely rendered at the last concert. The orchestra will number thirty-five pieces, and the society will sing over a hundred voices. Seats may be secured at Mercer's.

AT WILLARD hall to-morrow night two excellent comedies—"Cut out with a Shilling" and "Delicate Ground"—will be presented by amateurs for the benefit of the little church mission of St. Mark's, near Berkeley Springs. The performers will include Miss Alice Maury, Mr. John S. Webb, Mr. E. C. Cady, and Mr. John McKim, of Baltimore, all of whom have obtained considerable reputation as artists, and from whom an excellent performance may be anticipated. The entertainment is under the auspices of Miss Waite, who has taken a great interest in its preparation, and tickets may be obtained from her at her residence, No. 1415 I street northwest, or from Mrs. Jay Cooke, No. 1718 D street.

TO-NIGHT the testimonial to the Misses Harvey will take place at the Congregational church. These young ladies, both superior vocalists themselves, will be assisted by Miss Eva Mills, Mr. Warren Young, Miss Ida K. Hinds, Prof. Bischoff, and other talent, and a most attractive programme will be presented.

THE NORTH-COAST CONCERT. North-east, the famous cornet soloist of Philadelphia, with a large troupe of competent performers, will give a concert at the Congregational church to-morrow night under the auspices of the temperance tent committee.

THE PORTER BILL. Please inform the readers of your paper what has become of the Fitz-John Porter bill. Many are under the impression that the failure of the bill is due to a lack of interest in it, and that such failure makes the bill a law. Please enlighten us on the subject.

The bill originated in the house of representatives, and after it was passed by that body went to the senate, and was there amended somewhat in its phrasingology, the object being to make it so clear and plain that Congress was not to receive any pay for the time they were out of the service as to leave no chance for quibbling. This amendment sent the bill back to the house for concurrence. It was placed on the proper calendar, and there it remains. It can only be called up by order of the house, or by suspension of the rules, and the gentleman who have the bill in charge have not yet found an opportunity for asking for a suspension of the rules for this purpose. Technically speaking, therefore, the Fitz-John Porter bill has not yet been passed.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DINNER. The Attorney General and Mrs. Brewster gave a handsome dinner party on Saturday evening at which the guests were President Arthur, Chief Justice and Mrs. Waite, Justice and Mrs. Miller, Justice and Mrs. Field, Justice and Mrs. Matthews, Justice and Mrs. Harlan, Justice and Mrs. Gray, Senator and Mrs. Hill, Representative and Mrs. Randolph Tucker, and Mrs. Laughton. The attorney general, who is punctilious in the observance of official etiquette, always yields to the President the host's seat at the center of the table, and when he entertains the chief magistrate the table was beautifully decorated with flowers, the center piece being a large silver urn filled with jasmines and white lilies. The last course, bouquets of roses, were passed in two oval pieces at either end of the table and distributed with the favors.

IN A QUANDRY. The New York papers seem to have an idea that the "Utica" convention decided the presidential question, but they are not agreed as to which way it was decided.

ARMY AND NAVY.

THE SWAIN court of inquiry convene to-day in room 10, Courthouse building.

The Navy department is informed that Medical Director George W. Colville (retired), died at Westley Hill, Mass., Friday.

Chief Engineer Edwin Wells has been ordered to sail for England. Lieut. John C. Thomas has been placed on the retired list of the navy.

The signal office reports that a telegram has been received from the American legation at the observer at Pike's Peak has been relieved in the best of health.

Major John M. Bacon, 7th cavalry, recently promoted from captain, and cavalry, will report to the commanding general of the 7th cavalry at Dakota for assignment to a station.

Capt. Alexander B. McGowan, 12th infantry, is appointed to act as inspector of certain public buildings at the Jeffersonville depot, and as quartermaster's department, Jeffersonville, Ind.

The commanding general department of Dakota will grant a furlough for four months, to take effect upon his re-enlistment, to Commissary Sergeant Hippolyte Gustowski, U. S. A., now serving in that department.

Ordinance Sergeant Edward McGuire, U. S. A., is relieved from duty at Fort Marion, St. August, Fla., and will be granted a furlough of two months, on the expiration of which he will report by letter to the adjutant general, United States army.

The Portsmouth, which recently arrived at Newport with yellow fever on board, is to be quarantined at the Portsmouth, N. H., harbor, and the crew, or which there is a small ship with a hospital for contagious diseases. The sick men can then be put ashore if necessary.

Based Assistant Surgeon H. H. Harniss has been detached from the Michigan and granted leave of absence. Passed Assistant Surgeon Grant, from the naval hospital at Chelsea, Mass., and ordered to the command of the 1st Michigan, and has been ordered to assume charge of the branch hydrographic office in New York. Mr. E. Webb has been detached from the Boston navy yard and ordered to the Portsmouth, N. H., navy yard; Naval Constructor G. R. South, detached from the special duty at Detroit, Mich., and ordered to the Boston navy yard.

The following changes in the stations of commissary sergeants United States army will be effected: Commissary Sergeant David B. Jeffers, from the command of Fort Hale, Dakota, proceed to Fort Snelling, Dakota, and report to the commanding general of that department. Commissary Sergeant E. F. Ambrose, from being relieved, will proceed to the command of Fort Snelling, Dakota, and report to the commanding general of that department. Commissary Sergeant George W. Perkins, from being relieved, will proceed to the command of Fort Snelling, Dakota, and report to the commanding general of that department.

THE WEEK'S PROGRAMME.

The Business to be Considered by the House and Senate This Week.

The contested election case of O'Farrell vs. Paul will probably be considered by the house this morning after the call of states. The question of consideration can, however, be raised, and the house can postpone discussions. Should the majority refuse to consider the case, the regular business will be motions to suspend the rules for the passage of measures. Mr. Springer is first on the list. He expects to call up a bill for the purchase of additional ground for the public building at Washington, D. C. Representative Ryan, who is seventh if he is reached, will try to secure the passage of his bill repealing the limitation of the arrears of pensions act. Of those who precede Mr. Ryan, some will merely ask that they be allowed to retain their position on the list for a future individual suspension day.

The motion to strike out the enacting clause of the Morrison tariff bill will be made Tuesday. It has not yet been decided who will make it, and the republicans say that if they can secure democratic votes by allowing a democratic to offer it, they will agree to the motion being made by a representative of that party. Both sides expect the vote on the motion to be a close one, and much confidence of success. Republican supporters are gaining forty-five democrats and losing four or five of their own number. The friends of the bill say the number of democrats who will vote with the republicans will not be so great as the latter anticipated. They count on a majority of from five to eight. Proceedings in the house during the latter part of the week will depend on the tariff bill which may be taken on the tariff bill Tuesday. The friends of the measure are successful in their efforts to keep the bill under the five-minute rule. Should their opponents succeed, there will remain an unfinished business liable to come up the bill for the land grant of the Oregon Central railroad, and the bills providing for appropriations for public buildings throughout the country. The District of Columbia and diplomatic and consular appropriation bills are in the house, and may be called up at any time. The house will probably adjourn at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon to attend the unveiling of the statue of Chief Justice Marshall.

The shipping bill is the unfinished business in the senate, and Senator Frye hopes to secure its passage to-night. The bill appropriates \$10,000,000 for the purchase of foreign ships, and it may require two days to dispose of it. The agricultural and pension appropriation bills will be ready as soon as